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about your
government,
visit the
ASG Website
at
<http://www.americansamoa.gov>*

Three candidate designs created for American Samoa Quarter

The United States Mint has created a trio of candidate designs for the American Samoa Quarter, the 25-cent coin that will be produced as part of the Congressional 50 State and Territory Quarters Program.

(The 50 State Quarters coins is a ten-year program that was introduced in 1999 and will end this year with the issuance of the Hawaii commemorative quarter, marking the 50th State to be honored. A provision was added by Congress to the 2008 Consolidated Appropriations Act to produce the Territorial Quarters for American Samoa, the other territories, and Washington DC, which will be honored first in 2009).

In February, the Governor's Office received 55 submissions.

The three candidate designs for the territory's quarter were prepared after collaboration with the US Mint since February to ensure historical accuracy and proper representation. Governor Togiola Tulafono said the artwork will now be presented for review to the Citizens Coinage Advisory Committee and the Commission of Fine Arts.

"We have received the three beautiful candidate designs and the artists at the U.S. Mint have done an excellent job in creating these designs through the narratives and artwork that we received from local submissions in February," the Governor explained. "The advisory committee and fine arts commission in Washington DC will now review the candidate designs and make recommendations on how to improve and enhance the designs, and the United States Mint, in consultation with us in American Samoa, may make changes, if any, to address the recommendations of the committee and commission."

After this part of the process, Togiola said his office will recommend from among the final designs its primary and secondary design choices. By next month, the U.S. Mint will present the primary recommended design from American Samoa to the US Treasury Secretary for approval.

"I am very happy that we have received the three designs, and I am sure that all our wonderful school children, their teachers and parents, local and aspiring artists, and concerned individuals are speculating about what the final design selection would look like, and what best represents the spirit of American Samoa," said Togiola. "As you can see in the three candidate designs, each design attempts to best capture what totally makes us unique as a proud people with a proud culture and traditions, and a beautiful island home that is part of America."

Finalist 1 depicts a man with a traditional Samoan tattoo (soga'imiti) standing tall, holding a dried coconut cup used during the 'ava ceremony, symbolizing the importance of servitude in Samoan culture. Also pictured are coconut leaves (fronds), leaves of a breadfruit tree (with two breadfruits) and taro leaves signifying the three staples of Samoa.

(Continued on page 6)

ASG RADIO PROGRAM

With: Gov. Togiola Tulafono

On: Showers of Blessings FM 104.7

Saturdays @ 7a.m.- 9:00a.m. Call: 699-8123/8124



Nov. 4 is general Election Day in the territory

Chief Election Officer Soliai Tuipine Fuimaono has issued a general memorandum announcing November 4, 2008 as general Election Day in the territory.

The election is scheduled to take place from 6am – 6pm at designated poll booths in different districts throughout American Samoa, usually in church halls or guest fales.

This year's election will be held to select a Governor and Lt. Governor for the term beginning Jan. 3, 2009 – Jan. 3, 2013; the delegate to the US Congress for the two-year term that commences on Jan. 3, 2009; and all seats for the local House of Representatives for the term that begins Jan. 3, 2009 and expires on Jan. 3, 2011.

All persons running for one of the 20 seats in the House for districts in both Tutuila and Manu'a will have to be voted in by the public, with the exception of the 21st House member who represents the Swains Island and will be selected by Swains Island residents during a special open meeting that will be scheduled by the Election Office.

Candidate registration will start on June 2 and the deadline, under local election laws, is Sept. 1 at 4:30pm.

The Election Office urges every eligible voter to cast a ballot this year. That is why the staff has taken the voter registration process to the local high schools where everyone on campus, including students, teachers, and school officials are reportedly showing up to register.

The Election Office staff is also expected to travel to the Manu'a Islands to set up shop on the Manu'a High School campus, as well as register voters from Ta'u, Fitiuta, and Faleasao, followed by Ofu and Olosega..

DBAS looking for designers to build energy efficient homes

The Development Bank of American Samoa is inviting qualified designers, architects, and engineers to submit proposals to design homes in American Samoa, based on the Objective available at the DBAS office in Pago Pago.

Interested qualified designers can pick up a copy of the Objective at DBAS during regular business hours: Monday-Friday 9am – 3pm or by emailing inquiries to iutita@dbas.org

DBAS is looking for qualified designers to produce three homes that are "tropicalized" and "energy efficient," using the best available technology to reduce the cost of energy, such as with an Energy Star Rated Home.

Offers are due by 2pm local time on June 24, 2008 and proposals must be submitted to the DBAS office no later than that time.

The award for the design work will be made within five to seven days thereafter.

HISTORICAL NOTES

By: Stan Sorensen, Historian, Office of the Governor

On May 23, 1980, Public Law 16-55, which established American Samoa's Department of Parks and Recreation, became effective. Governor Peter Tali Coleman appointed High Talking Chief Fuga Tolani Teleso, a 20-year US Army veteran (Korean War and Vietnam War) who had coached the Army's golf team and had supervised the construction of the Lavalava Golf Course (later renamed the 'Ili'ili Golf Course) as the DPR's first director.

On May 24, 1961, President John F. Kennedy appointed Hyrum Rex Lee, a veteran administrator in the Department of the Interior's Bureau of Indian Affairs, as American Samoa's seventh appointed civil governor (until July 31, 1967), succeeding Governor Peter Tali Coleman, who was the Territory's only appointed Samoan governor. Lee's first term was the longest of any of American Samoa's governors (civil or naval), and he served an additional half-year term (May 28, 1977-January 3, 1978), thus becoming the longest-serving appointed civil governor, and the only appointed civil governor to serve two non-consecutive terms.

On May 25, 1911, a Samoan Hospital Fund was created in American Samoa. Its sources were "small fees for medical services and operations at the Samoan Hospital, extra attendants, bed patients, and the sale of drugs purchased by the fund."

On May 25, 1986, the *Hokule'a*, a traditional Hawaiian voyaging canoe built of fiberglass and other modern materials for the United States Bicentennial celebrations in 1976, was greeted in Pago Pago Harbor by "hordes of people." The *Hokule'a* and her crew of 18, led by navigator Nainoa Thompson, was on a 2 1/2-year "Voyage of Rediscovery," which took her to Samoa, Tonga, the Cook Islands and Tahiti.

On May 26, 1969, the News Bulletin of American Samoa recorded the return of the Apollo 10 astronauts to Earth in this way. "SPLASHDOWN IS PERFECT" - Apollo 10 blazed its way across the South Pacific skies this morning to a letter perfect landing 340 miles east of Tutuila, ending the most successful space flight in history. Hundreds of local residents lined the southern coast and got fleeting glimpses of the blazing space craft as it re-entered the earth's atmosphere. The view would have been perfect except for a scattered cloud cover. The bright red streak caused by the fire which enveloped the capsule could be seen only when it shot across open spaces in the clouds. And at 6:34 a.m. the three space travelers stepped onto the deck of the Princeton. For the first time in the history of space travel they were cleanly shaven. They had performed a "first" by shaving last night. The Princeton immediately began steaming toward Tutuila. It will be in helicopter range this afternoon and the astronauts will fly by chopper to Tafuna airport for a big but brief welcoming ceremony at about 4:00 p.m. They will be greeted by Governor Owen S. Aspinall, Mrs. Aspinall, Maria Tia, who was Miss American Samoa 1968, and Fatima Langkilde, Miss American Samoa of 1969, will present leis to the astronauts. They then will pass through a short receiving line and mount a high platform and the Governor will welcome them briefly. Each astronaut will respond briefly and then they will board a plane for a 13 hour non-stop flight to the Space Center in Houston.

Governor Togiola signs documents to bring first undersea fiber optic cable to American Samoa

Governor Togiola Tulafono signed on Wednesday, May 21, documents that'll facilitate bringing in the multi-million-dollar Pacific Rim East (Pac Rim) undersea fiber optic cable to American Samoa.

To carry out the Governor's desire to keep the Fono members in the loop about the project, a special gathering was held at Sadie's in Malaloa where several House members and Senator Tuala Vaivao Manaia were present to hear the first ever technical presentation for the fiber optic cable project.

"In an effort to ensure that the people's representatives are apprised of the project, I have made our technical experts available to answer any and all questions that the Legislature may have," said the Governor.

The event was hosted by the Governor's Office and carried out by the technical team that will implement the fiber optic. The group consisted of Thomas Sorenson of Alcatel-Lucent, Craig Walton of Telecom New Zealand, and John Hibbard and Doug Nielsen of Hibbard Consulting. (It is Hibbard Consulting who will be managing the fiber optic cable that will be landed at Fogagogo and connected to the Blue Sky site in Ili'i which will be used as the main center for distribution to the private sector, government and others. Alcatel-lucent will be bringing in the vessel to pick up the Pac Rim cable which is currently 100 miles off the territory at a depth of about 15,000 feet).

While in the territory, the group will be meeting with various government agencies to iron out necessary permits dealing with land use and environmental issues, as well as locals who may be subcontracted for the project.

The presentation focused on the main tasks involved with the venture, and covered several technical areas of the project including the actual tasks involved in redeploying the Pac Rim East Cable to land in Pago Pago, the route the cable will take to reach the Territory's shores, and the many benefits that American Samoa may expect to see as a result of the cable project.

"The submarine fiber optic cable is the most significant economic development project in the last several decades," Togiola said. "The sea of change that this project represents is absolutely tremendous."

The Governor explained that American Samoa has, until now, been dependent on the canneries "for as long as we can remember;" but with this new initiative, "we will move from a labor intensive manufacturing industry into a technology driven industry. This is where technical skills are required, and this is where the better paying jobs are."

Togiola said our people will have the best opportunity to make the most of this market within our region, and "we must take advantage of this amazing opportunity."

The Governor described the fiber optic project as "a major priority" of this Administration. "The possibilities alone for distance health, learning, and business applications alone are impressive," he said. "You add to that the increased capacity for establishing and growing technology-based businesses and government, and the possibilities are limitless!"

Local lawmakers were able to engage in a question and answer session with members of the technical team, following the presentation. The session turned into a facilitated discussion where Fono members were able to express their concerns over the project and voice their support and explore specific initiatives where their lawmaking powers may be useful to the project.

"I am very happy that the Fono members were available to review and discuss their issues and questions with our technical team," the Governor said. "This project has been in the works for a little over two years, and now that the documents are signed, the goal of bringing fiber optic to the Territory is within view."

He added, "I believe that we are on the cusp of a technology explosion in our islands because we have worked so hard on this project with our partners. And having the support of the Fono and the community in general is the key to carrying out the rest of this very important project."

The vessel is expected to bring the cable to American Samoa later this year in November, and the work is expected to take 30 days or so. Depending on weather conditions, American Samoa should be connected to the cable during the first quarter of 2009.

The fiber optic cable will provide faster and better internet connection, voice capability, and data transfer for various areas like tele-health and remote distance learning.

The parties involved in the Pac Rim cable project include ASG, Telecom New Zealand, Merchant Capital (an investment and merchant banking company based in Alabama), and Elandia Incorporated (parent company of Blue Sky Communications).

The government has already forked out \$6 million for the project - \$3 million came from the \$20 million ASG Retirement Fund loan, and another \$3 million was from the Interior Department's FY 2008 Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) for ASG.

10TH FESTIVAL OF PACIFIC ARTS COMING SOON...
PLEASE KEEP AMERICAN SAMOA CLEAN!
FA'AMAMA AMERIKA SAMOA!

May 2008 proclaimed as Older Americans Month in the territory

Governor Togiola Tulafono has proclaimed the month of May 2008 as Older Americans Month in American Samoa.

"I urge everyone to take time this month to honor our older adults, and professionals, family members, and citizens who care for older adults," the Governor wrote in his proclamation. "I urge all citizens and communities to work collaboratively to strengthen the services American Samoa provides to its adults in ways that recognize the changing nature of their needs, and that provide older adults with more opportunities to make informed choices about their lives."

This year's theme is: "Working together for strong, healthy, and supportive communities."

An estimated 4,579 citizens aged 60 or older make their home in American Samoa, and older adults in the territory, as well as throughout the United States are a growing population with evolving needs.

"Older Americans are valuable members of our society who are rich with experience and deserving of our respect," the Governor wrote. "The number of those reaching traditional retirement age continues to increase, a fact that spotlights the needs for increased attention to the needs of older adults."

According to Togiola, older citizens of today and tomorrow promise to be among the most active and engaged older adult populations in our Nation's history; and it is the responsibility of all communities to work together to prepare for a changing older adult population by modernizing systems of care and providing consumers with more control over their lives.

The Governor concluded by saying that the overall quality of life can be greatly enhanced when supportive communities help their older citizens obtain:

- Evidence-based approaches to making behavioral changes that can reduce risk of disease, disability, and injury;
- Tools to make informed decisions about and gain better access to existing health and long-term care options; and
- More options to avoid placement in nursing homes and to remain at home for as long as possible.

DOC reminds business owners about illegal relocation and transfer

The Department of Commerce is reminding the local business community that it is illegal to relocate or transfer a business to a new location without first obtaining a new business license for the new location.

A public notice signed by DOC director Faleseu Eliu Paopao states that DOC officials are authorized to enter any building or premises for the purpose of conducting an inspection with respect to business activities. "Interference with DOC officials in the performance of these duties can result in arrest or prosecution," Faleseu reminded.

The notice comes at a time when there are reports surfacing about some businesses relocating to other places without first obtaining a new business license. As a result, DOC will be conducting regular on-site inspections of all businesses for 2008 business licenses.

Under local laws, every business license issued is personal and shall be issued to the person or persons making the application, and may not, in any circumstances, be transferred to any other person. Any license conditioned upon the fulfillment of any qualification or prerequisites pertaining to the premises wherein the licensee conducts his business, trade, or profession may not be transferred to another location.

Additionally, when one person operates or conducts businesses in 2 or more locations in American Samoa, the person is required to obtain a license for each location.

Business owners are advised to post their 2008 business license certificate(s) in a conspicuous place on the premises. In the event the Revenue Office has not yet issued a business license certificate, business owners are asked to present their receipt as proof of payment.

All questions, concerns, and comments may be forwarded to the DOC's Economic Development Division at 633-5155 or 733-7125.

FEMA's EMPG awards over \$700K to American Samoa

American Samoa has been awarded approximately \$761,546 from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) under the Emergency Management Performance Grants (EMPG) program.

The award is listed in the EMPG distribution list and is subject to "special conditions," meaning that although the money is earmarked for the territory, it will not be disbursed until a financial review of American Samoa's Homeland Security funding is completed.

(Last year, FEMA placed a freeze on all grants to the territory, with the exception of emergency situations).

The funding promotes state and local jurisdictions to engage in comprehensive national and regional planning processes that seek to enhance emergency management and catastrophic capabilities through strengthened national and regional relationships.

The money is part of a \$291 million allocation for FY 2008 and will be distributed to states and territories to assist them in sustaining and enhancing all-hazards emergency management capabilities.

Mike Sala, acting director of the local Department of Homeland Security which is the local administrator of FEMA funding, said that the award will support the emergency management mission areas, and structure individual emergency management programs based on identified needs and priorities to strengthen their capabilities as outlined in the territorial EMPG Work Plan.

Sala said that the plan will provide a proactive approach for preparedness, preventive, mitigation, response and recovery, as well as sustain and enhance all-hazards emergency.

He explained that the money will fund four projects:

- Evacuation Plan – update and revise plans to address mass evacuation and related areas – plans call for emergency management to work with stakeholders across all levels of government, the private sector, and non-governmental organizations to update the Territorial Emergency Operations Plan and develop/enhance emergency standard operating procedures.
- Emergency Communications and Warning in order to prevent or mitigate loss of life or property damage.
- Outreach program to train, strengthen, and increase community awareness on emergency response and preparations. The objective of this project is to educate and mobilize village communities in becoming more self-sufficient.
- Mitigation Program to be incorporated into the outreach campaign to educate the territory's citizens at all levels on preventative measures to minimize damages to homes, properties, and infrastructure in the event of natural or man-made disasters.

Sala said that EMPG program provides a proactive approach for preparedness, preventive, mitigation, and response and recovery phases of emergency management to strategically equip the territory with an effective and efficient emergency management system.

He concluded, "I just want to thank my staff for a job well done!"

SHARE IMPORTANT INFORMATION & ACTIVITIES IN YOUR ASG NEWSLETTER

with your ASG workforce as well as the citizens of American Samoa.

Email your articles, announcements, pictures or other information to:

Harry Stevens (harry.stevens@americansamoa.gov or Tialuga Vince Iuli (vince.iuli@americansamoa.gov))

Governor orders freeze on hiring, increments, and promotions until further notice

Governor Togiola Tulafono says the American Samoa Government needs to plan for the rest of fiscal year (FY) 2008 and fiscal year (FY) 2009 as the pending 50-cent escalator clause is set to take effect on May 25. Therefore, he has issued a general memorandum announcing a freeze on all ASG hiring, promotions, and increments until further notice.

The Governor has informed ASG Treasurer Gaea Perefoti Failautusi, Budget Director Magalei Logovi'i, and Human Resources Director Mageo Ieti Malu of the personnel freeze and his request for departments to submit personnel data for his review.

"I respectfully request your review of the data which will be gathered in order to determine the effect of the next minimum wage increase on ASG operations," said the Governor.

Togiola wants to know how many ASG employees will be affected by the increase; how much ASG can expect to pay out in increased wages; what effect the increased wage bill will have on current FY 2008 budgets and proposed FY 2009 budgets; and what adjustments will need to be made to our system of employment to compensate for any projected shortfalls owing to the minimum wage increase.

Regarding the freeze, the Governor explained, "I have issued this action in order to determine the effect of the next increase in minimum wage on American Samoa Government operations."

He added, "All pending hiring, promotion, and increment actions will be processed through the normal channels and will be held in the Office of Program Planning and Budget Development until such time as the freeze is lifted."

In addition, all departments are advised to review their personnel rosters for the implementation of the next 50-cent minimum wage increase. Togiola wants each agency to prepare a report listing their personnel that will be directly affected by the clause, and the increase in their personnel budgets, respectively.

The freeze however, will not affect the teacher reclassification legislation which was approved by the Fono earlier this month and is currently being reviewed by the Governor. The legislation sets teachers' salaries between \$7,737 up to \$35,000 based on certification and qualifications.

American Samoa Quarter... *(continued from page 1)*



Finalist 2 reveals symbols of Samoan life: *Fale* (guest house); *Tuiga* (ceremonial headdress); *Tanoa* (*ava* [kava] bowl); *Fue* (orator's fly whisk); and the *To'oto'o* (orator's staff). Also featured is the inscription "*Samoa Muamua Le Atua*" (the Territory's motto which means, "Samoa, Let God Be First").

Finalist 3 features the *tanoa* (*ava* [kava] bowl) which is used to make Samoa's special ceremonial drink for chiefs and guests. Also included are the *Fue* (fly whisk) symbolizing wisdom of the orator, and the *To'oto'o* (staff) which signifies authority. The inscription "*Samoa Muamua Le Atua*" (the Territory's motto which means, "Samoa, Let God Be First") is also included.

The American Samoa Quarter will be minted and issued by the U.S. Mint in 2009. On December 27, 2007, President George

W. Bush signed legislation for American Samoa, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, the United States Virgin Islands, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and Washington DC to have their own commemorative quarter-dollars in 2009. The new 25 cent coin will continue to feature image of President George Washington on the obverse (heads side) of each quarter. The image on the reverse (tails side) will commemorate the history, geography or traditions of American Samoa.

More information on the 50 State Quarters (R) Program and the 2008 Consolidated Appropriations Act can be found at www.usmint.gov/pressroom



Nurses' Week 1st Place Winner for Best Samoan Poem Contest

SE SUIGA MO ASO UMA

Tusia e: Lolenese Vaina Tuvale

Dialysis Unit

Fai se suiga mo aso uma
O fa'auluuluga lea o o'u mafaufauga
Fa'atalofa ia te outou teine ma tama tausima'i
I lenei aso taua, o le Atua na ia foa'i
Lou aso fa'amanatuina ua aulia
Va tatou sapi ai nei ma'a o malie, i le
Olioli ma le fiafia

Fai se suiga i le taimi nei
Aua, e le tu'ulafoa'ina oe e le Atua, i au galuega lelei
Taga'i ane i ou autafa
Sui lau amio i le va ma tagata
Ou laufofoga tausea'afia ma le mata'alia
Ia tumau, ae aua le suia

Se'e ane i lou potu faigaluega
Ia fai oe ma fa'amama avega
E soloi ese ai ni tiga po o ni mafatiaga
I se tama loto fa'anoanoa, po o se tina ma'itaga
Talatalanoa i ai ma milimili o lona lima
Ae sili ai lava lou musumusua i lona taliga

Se suiga lelei ma ia fa'ataua
Teu i lou fatu, fetaliga a le Atua
Tausi le fealofani ma ia taulai lau va'ai
O le DIALYSIS lo matou potu talavai
E tumu i fa'amanuiaga ma vi'iga
Aua o matou e tasi lo matou aiga

Se suiga i galo ona fa'ataunu'u
Fesili ia Muamai, po o ai na la fai upu
Ua mafua ai lenei aso o tamaita'i ma ali'i tausima'i
A o le vi'iga e ao ona toe fa'afo'i i le Tama o i le lagi

Afai fo'i e fai se suiga
Ia fai mae'ae'a ma ia i ai se uiga
Se va'aiga i o matou taimi amata
E usu fa'avaveao mai ma le mole o le manava
Ua oso a'e ai ma lo'u fiu
Sili ai ona fa'asasa'o loa le ta'avale i se oganiu
A le manava i le valu itula, ua fa'asolo atoa
E toe apata atu ua sola le tamaloa

O le fautuaga i le vasega o PCC
O le manatu ea o matou o ni manuki
Toso ane i o, toso ane i i
Talofa e, ua tau maua i le fiva fa'a'i
Alofa ia se'i fai ma se fa'atatau
E le valea fo'i nei fanau ...

O le upu lava a le atunu'u ua tamau
E fai fo'i o le I'a, a o le upega ne'i maimau

Ae ui i lea nai o'u uso matutua
O le galuega e fai fa'atasi, e le na o se to'alua
Malu ave i fale tou finagalo
O matou na o ni auauna loto fa'amagalo
Ia pele pea i i tatou loto le galuega fa'atausima'i
Ae aveese ia lou loto to'atama'i
I gasegase o lo'o sulu mai i o tatou lima
E su'e se Tylenol mo lona fiva

Fa'anoanoa i tala ua fa'asalalau mai
Fai mai a e alu e te talavai,
Kisi i Iou aiga e alu ai,
Aua o le mea moni e te le toe fo'i mai
Se ta Ie lava fa'alogi i nei fa'aupuga
Ua oso ai i luga le suka ma le toto mauuluga

Vasega o teine ma tama tausima'i se'i fa'alogi mai
Tuli i luma so ta ai
Mataala ma ia taumafai
O le galuega e mana'omia lou tula'i fa'amaoni mai
Fa'ataua lou vala'auina
Ina ia maua se 'ai mo tagatanu'u fa'apea aiga

Se suiga i fa'amatalaga fe'avea'i
Talofa e, ua a'afia ai fua si o ta falema'i
I ni taumafaiga e fa'alelei ai le galuega fita
Ae paga o lo'o i ai e faifai upu pa'aa
Se'i loga e ta'u ia Tonka Man mo se fautuaga
Aua e le fai fua nei fa'asalalaua, pe a leai se mafua'aga

Liugalua o le tautalaga, se'j ou liliu ane i le gagana fa'aperetania
E faigata o lea ua filogia le aofia
The Theme for our week is "Nurses making a difference everyday"
What kind of difference? The good, the bad or the ugly way?
Nurses, just think about it.
But, don't panic

Ua i'u la'u solo mo le tauvaga
Ae tu'u atu pea i'ina mo sau fuafuaga
Pe sili pe leai
A o lo matou sao lena ma lo matou taumafai
O suiga uma ia fa'ataunu'u
Fa'atofa atu, ua uma se upu

Nurses' Week 1st Place Winner of POETRY CONTEST:

She lay there

By: *Grace Taufauomalo Tuimaleali'ifano, RN*
LBJ Intensive Care Unit

She lay there Day and Night
Eyes closed, closed tight
Unable to open but able to feel
The warmth of a touch, a soothing voice Saying, "little girl you will make it through"
It's strength of will, power of prayer and all our efforts to calm you

She lay there
Four days now, not moving, no changes Parents feel hopeless
Everyone powerless
Tears of frustration and anger finding root in her parents hearts Only hoping prayers will be answered
Seeking a miracle that will save this cancer

She lay there
10 days now, mottled skin, pulse's weak It's a battle day and night
Yet her heart keeps beating, not giving up the fight
The nurse at her bedside keeping her warm and alive
Knowing all you can do is hold her hand and pray she will pull through

She lay there
In pink casket full of flowers Although gone from the earth
Parents are now in agreement that her suffering has ended Thank you to the nurse who read her bedtime stories
And held her hand so she wouldn't feel lonely
Sometimes that's all you need to do to make a difference and keep on living.

1st Place Winner of Nurses' Week Essay Contest:

A Rare Breed

by: *Monica Fe'a-Iosefa (a proud nurse)*

One wonders what Nursing is. Many definitions of Nursing exist. Over a hundred years ago, Florence Nightingale said that Nursing is "the act of utilizing the environment of the client to assist him in his recovery," whereas, Virginia Henderson explained that the "unique functions of the nurse is to assist the individual --sick or well--in the performance of those activities contributing to health or its recovery (or to peaceful death) that he would perform unaided if he had the necessary strength, will or knowledge, and to do this in such a way as to help him gain independence as rapidly as possible." Nursing has also been described as a "unique blend of art and science."

In contrast to Medicine, Nursing focuses on the person's physical, psychological, cultural and spiritual responses to illness, rather than just focusing on treating the disease. This is the nurse's clear and unique role that no other job, profession or even vocation can claim as their own. We, as nurses, are a special breed. We have a special calling to fulfill. And in fulfilling this, we make a difference in this world.

Nurses undergo appropriate and special training with schooling to deliver our own rare type of care. We assume a variety of roles. We become teachers, leaders, caregivers, advocates and sometimes priests. We administer not only to the sick, but also to the healthy. We become role models and trustworthy in the eyes of the public; acting as caregivers, communicators, counselors, research consumers and a diversity of other roles. We become chameleons of the Health Care Profession.

Florence Nightingale carried a lantern to guide her way while she cared for her clients. This becomes symbolic for all nurses. We too carry the light in caring for others. This light symbolizes hope and trust, the same emotions that Nightingale's lantern evoked amongst her soldiers.

Let us become that light, bringing hope and trust to others who are depressed and in despair. With hope and trust, well being and content will emerge.

Doctors can order, teachers can teach and pastors will preach. But nurses, with just a gentle touch, a smile on their lips, softness to their voice, can accomplish all the intentions of these people with so little effort.

We do make a difference! Take pride in that knowledge. We, as professionals, are a unique and special breed that the world will forever need and crave for. So, to all my fellow nurses, go out there and make a difference in people's lives; conquer that true Nursing Spirit and pass it on to everyone you come in contact with.